



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Commissioner Visits Newport Summer Learning Program

Highlighting many of the summer-learning opportunities available in Rhode Island, Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist today (June 11) joined a group of students who participate in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County afterschool and summer-learning programs.

“Soon our schools will close for the summer, but learning doesn’t take a vacation,” Gist said. “Rhode Island offers students and their families many excellent opportunities to have fun and to learn – in afterschool hours and during the summer months. When children are involved in fun and productive activities throughout the summer, they’re better able to retain what they’ve learned and to perform well in school in the fall.”

The students Commissioner Gist joined had built their own kites and today had the opportunity to fly the kites at Brenton Point State Park, in Newport.

“Children’s minds are always open for learning activities,” Gist said. “Children can learn from teachers, counselors, mentors, and of course parents as well – through family activities and at many of the high-quality programs that are available across the state.”

Attached to this news release and posted on the R.I. Department of Education website (www.ride.ri.gov) is a list of links to and contacts for programs and organizations in Rhode Island that have [summer-learning opportunities](#) for children and families at little or no cost. There are still openings in many of the programs.

The Boys & Girls Club of Newport County is accessible online, at <http://www.bgcnewport.org>

Other organizations that focus on afterschool and summer learning include:

- The Providence After School Alliance, at www.mypasa.org
- The Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance, at www.afterschoolri.org
- YMCA of Greater Providence, at <http://www.ymcagreaterprovidence.org/>

“There are so many things that families can do to celebrate learning and to prepare their children for success in school,” said Commissioner Gist. “I hope Rhode Islanders will take advantage of these opportunities and have a wonderful summer of learning and fun!”

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